

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the addition of claim 29 and the cancellation without prejudice of claims 12, 16, 20, and 24, claims 10, 11, 13 to 15, 17 to 19, 21 to 23, and 25 to 29 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper and cited references.

II. Rejection of Claims 10 to 28 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 10 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,971,806 ("Evans et al."). It is respectfully submitted that Evans et al. do not anticipate these claims for at least the following reasons.

As an initial matter, claims 12, 16, 20, and 24 have been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the present rejection with regard to claims 12, 16, 20, and 24.

Claim 10 relates to a removable electrical plug-in connection and recites a connector and a mating connector, the mating connector including a contact element having at least one contact area which is connectable at least in part to the connector, wherein the connector includes at least one clamping element which grips at least in part around the contact element in its contact position, and this clamping element presses at least a part of the contact element against the contact area for establishing the electrical plug-in connection. As amended herein without prejudice, claim 10 further recites that the clamping element is configured to fix the at least a part of the contact element to the contact area. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, at page 4, lines 12 to 17 of the Substitute Specification.

Evans et al., relating to an electrical connector, disclose, referring to Figure 1, a connector having spring means 20, 30 having arched portions 28, 38. The spring means 20, 30 elastically bias electrically conductive areas 25, 35 of

flexible circuits 23, 33 toward electrically conductive pads 51 on a substrate 51 of a printed circuit board. While the spring means may maintain electrical contact between the flexible circuit and the printed circuit board when in an inserted position, this arrangement does not maintain the conductive parts in a fixed position in relation to the electrically conductive areas of the flexible circuits. As indicated in the Specification of the present application, a fixed position limits corrosion that may otherwise be caused by micro-movements between contact surfaces. See page 1, line 28 to page 2, line 2 of the Substitute Specification. Such fixing would not be practical in the connector of Evans et al., as the substrate must be able to slide between the conductive areas when the printed circuit board is inserted into the connector. See, e.g., col. 4, lines 38 to 43. In this regard, Evans et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, a clamping element that is configured to fix at least a part of a contact element to a contact area of a contact element.

As indicated above, Evans et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features recited in claim 10. As such, it is respectfully submitted that Evans et al. do not anticipate claim 10.

Claims 11, 13 to 15, 17 to 19, 21 to 23, and 25 to 28 ultimately depend from claim 10 and therefore include all of the features recited in claim 10. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Evans et al. do not anticipate these dependent claims for at least the reasons set forth above in support of the patentability of claim 10.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. New Claim 29

New claim 29 has been added. It is respectfully submitted that new claim 29 adds no new matter and is fully supported by the present application, including the Specification. It is respectfully submitted that claim 29 is patentable over the reference relied upon.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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